

## Model United Nations Club

September 25, 2008

Dear Parents,

Your child has chosen to participate in the Model United Nations Club (MUN). In this letter you will find a brief description of the MUN Club's activities. Please note that participation in a conference requires a registration fee and even travel expenses. These costs are primarily borne by the family. Details are given below.

### What is Model UN?

Participation in the Model United Nations gives young people the opportunity to debate world issues. These debates happen at conferences which involve several schools. Each participant is assigned a different country to represent. For example, at the conference, your son or daughter might represent India or Denmark or Uganda. While playing the part of a country, students attempt to find realistic solutions to world issues. Participation in Model United Nations requires students to use all of the skills they have learned in the classroom – researching and writing, public speaking and debating, team work and goal setting. Best of all, students who participate in MUN begin to learn from one another. Since the activity requires so many different skills for success, each student has a chance to be a leader!

More than 400,000 students around the world participate in an MUN conference every year.

### The 2008-2009 Conference Calendar

Date	Name / Location	Cost / Detail	Brief Description
November 7 & 8, 2008	West Lake MUN, hosted by Hangzhou International School	100 RMB registration fee	This event is HIS's own contribution to the MUN calendar. 200 students from nine schools will participate. <a href="http://westlakemun.wikispaces.com/">http://westlakemun.wikispaces.com/</a>
March 11 to 16, 2009	BEIMUN XVI, hosted by the International School of Beijing (open to high school students only)	Roughly 650 USD for registration, hotel, and air fare	The biggest MUN conference in China. Over 800 students from 60 schools and three continents participate. <a href="http://www.beimun.net">www.beimun.net</a>
March 6 & 7, 2009	ACAMIS Middle School MUN, hosted by Suzhou-Singapore International School	to be determined (probably less than 50 USD)	An annual local event that shifts to a new school every year. About 100 students are involved.

*Please see the next page for more details*

## **What are my child's responsibilities?**

- (1) Every Tuesday, our club meets from 3:15 pm until 4:45 pm. At the meetings, we practice debating, learn how to do research, and discuss world affairs. Attendance is mandatory.
- (2) Outside of the meetings, students are expected to continue researching their assigned country, the topics chosen for the debates, and the actions of the United Nations. Many resources are available on the internet. (see below)
- (3) In the weeks leading up to a conference, all students are expected to draft a resolution addressing one of the issues and to discuss their ideas with others attending the conference. This will require access to the internet and time for chatting on-line with students from other schools.
- (4) Each participant also needs to purchase dress clothes for the conference. Boys are expected to wear business suits, while girls can wear a nice blouse with slacks or a skirt.

## **Where can parents get more information?**

- (1) From the teachers who direct the Model United Nations Club. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to answer your questions.
- (2) From the letters we send home. With each payment deadline for the conference, we will send home a letter announcing the deadline and explaining the purpose of the payment.
- (3) From the website that has been established for the HIS MUN club. At this website, we will post copies of all the letters we send home.

The address is <http://munhz.wikispaces.com/>

- (4) From the conference websites which are listed in the table above.
- (5) The following organizations also maintain websites about MUN.

The United Nations has an extensive site called the Cyber School Bus.

<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>

As part of the Cyber School Bus, the UN has created the Model UN Headquarters.

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/index.asp>

The United Nations Association of the USA also has a great toolkit for beginners.

<http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=482843>

## **What comes next?**

- (1) You are invited to come see our conference on November 7 and 8. Those of you who saw the event last year will remember how busy and productive it was. We invite all parents to observe the proceedings. Each student will give a speech on November 8.
- (2) Payments will be due very soon. After the October holiday, you will receive a letter asking for the 100 RMB registration fee for West Lake MUN. Also, those high school students wishing to attend BEIMUN will need to submit a 150 USD registration fee before the end of October. We will, of course, send more information as the deadlines approach.
- (3) Consider volunteering at West Lake MUN. Despite the substantial investment expected from families, MUN is still very much a volunteer organization. Most conferences are run on shoe-string budgets in order to keep registration fees as low as possible. At the West Lake MUN conference, we will organize a lounge for the teachers from other schools. We are looking for volunteers who can keep that room stocked with snacks and tea / coffee throughout the conference. Other volunteer opportunities are also available.

We are excited that your son or daughter has joined the MUN Club!

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